(d) how Government propose to pay the post-retirement benefits to the retired employees in the event of reducing the age from 60 to 58 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Cases pending before CAT

†459. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several cases are pending before Central Administrative Tribunal for adjudication;

(b) if so, the total number thereof at the end of March, 2004;

(c) the cases out of such pending cases which were registered with the Tribunal more than five years earlier; and

(d) the average annual cases decided by the Tribunal during previous years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) 27,331 cases were pending in Central Administrative Tribunal as on 31.03.2004 as against a total institution of 4,27,854 cases since its inception in 1985.

(c) 2,312 cases are pending for more than five years.

(d) The average number of cases decided each year by the Tribunal from 1985 to 31.12.2003 is 21,651.

Overhaul of recruitment pattern

460. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to thoroughly overhaul the recruitment pattern in the Government service; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) No, Sir. The Government is not considering such proposal.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) as above.

Kumarakam Package

461. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the media reports regarding LDF to seek loan waiver, railway zone;

(b) if so, action taken or proposed to be taken therein;

(c) whether any step is being taken to implement the former Government's promise to facilitate investment of Rs. 10,000 crores in Kerala and Rs. 2000 crores Kumarakam Package announced by the former Prime Minister;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Action has been initiated.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Central investment of over Rs. 10,000 crores in projects of PSUs like capacity expansion of NTPC's power station at Kayamkulam, upgradation of Bharat Petroleum Corporation's Kochi Refinery and mineral exploration jointly by NDMC and Indian Rare Earths Ltd. are under implementation. As regards the Kumarakam package, Government of Kerala has received around Rs. 22 crores for tourism projects and Rs. 4.5 crores for IT development. The Ministry of Information & Technology has developed a Software Technology Park at Thiruvananthapuram which provides comprehensive services to companies engaged in software development and exports. Work on the railway project in the Shoranur—Calicut stretch of the Shoranur Mangalapuram line is in progress. Action has already been initiated to set up a Container Transshipment Terminal at Vallarpadam in Cochin port.

(e) Does not arise.